



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

junet of "blessed;" an example of which may be seen on the tomb of Lord Portlester, in the 26th number of your Journal—not entirely half a century subsequent to the time I assign as its origin. Secondly, the words Sancta Maria, or Saint Mary, are so clearly impressed on the seal, that they could not, as your correspondent, P. asserts, be intended for the Virgin; for, if so, the inscription should then be, *Sigillum M: Abbatis Beate Mariæ Virginis, de Truim*; the Seal of M. Abbot of the Blessed Virgins, Trim; whereas, it is plainly, *Sigillum M: Abbatis Sanctæ Mariæ, de Truim*, the Seal of M. Abbot of Saint Mary's, Trim, thus proving, beyond the possibility of doubt, the correctness of my previous version, and, at the same time, affording ample testimony as to the identity of the Saint to whom the abbey was dedicated.

Now, Sir, with reference to the date, I, for my part, feel inclined to allow it a less degree of antiquity than your correspondent; for, in the first place, the workmanship, though very rude, is superior to any specimens we have of the engraving of the 13th century. Secondly, the style of the letters, and marks of abbreviation, also point to an era at least a century later than your correspondent ascribes. On all coins, previous to the reign of Edward III., the M's and N's are formed precisely similar to the capital letters of the present day; but during the reign of that monarch, in the outer circle, on the reverse side, of his groats and half groats, in the words, *Adjutorem meum et deum*, the M's are thus formed, (M); the N's, however, retaining their pristine appearance till the reign of Henry IV., when they also assumed a new form, and are thus delineated on his coins, n. Lastly, on all coins antecedent to the conquest, the marks of abbreviation are placed either under the word or before the last letter, but never after—two examples of which I give in the abbreviation of the word, "Monetarius." On the reverse of a provincial coin of Edmond's, the mark of abbreviation is thus placed *MO*; and on the reverse of a coin of Ethelred II., thus *MÖ*; the first example showing it under the first, and the second before the last letter. Subsequent to the conquest, the first coins on which marks of abbreviation occur are the Irish pennies of Edward I.; they are on their obverse sides, are superior to the word, and are generally, but not always, thus placed, DNS, in the abbreviation of Dominus; another instance of which we also observe on the groats of Richard II., over the word, London, which style continued to be used till the next reign. In the succeeding reign that of Henry IV., the marks of abbreviation are, on his coins, in every instance placed posterior to the word, and precisely similar to the style made use of on the seal, an example of which I give in the word, Henricus, thus abbreviated—Henric. On the seal, on its obverse side, the mark of abbreviation intersects the last letter of the word—the L in Sigill; and on the reverse side is placed immediately after the word, in the abbreviation of Abbatis; thus clearly indicating its age: the letter M, in the first place, not preserving its original form in the word Truim, on the obverse side; and secondly, the marks of abbreviation just then changing their positions, and taking that of the times in which their translation took place.

Now, Mr. Editor, taking these facts into consideration, all of which combine in confirming the truth of my assertion, I am sure you will agree with me, that the Abbot to whom the seal belonged must have flourished in the beginning of the 15th century, and during the reign of Henry IV.

Hoping you will excuse this trespass on your patience, believe me to remain, Sir, most respectfully yours,  
Mullingar.

D. KELLY.

We have willingly given insertion to the preceding critical observations of our ingenious correspondent, who is evidently a zealous searcher after truth; but he is undoubtedly in error in both of his conclusions, as he will find at once by referring to the plates of seals of the 13th century, in the *Archæologia* of the Society of Antiquaries; of which one example will suffice for reference. It is the seal of Southwick Priory in Hampshire, given in the 23d volume. The abbey to which this seal belonged was dedicated to the Virgin, who is represented on the seal with the infant Jesus on her lap, and the inscription runs thus:

SIGILLUM: ECCLESIE: SANCTE: MARIE: DE: SUWIKA.—The Seal of the Church of St. Mary of Southwick. The execution of this seal, which is proved to be of the 13th century, is of singular beauty, and the M's and N's are of the form which he refers to the fifteenth century. It is a mistake that that the N did not take this form on our coins till the reign of Henry IV. It appears so on all the gold money of Edward III., including his first coinage, and the quarter florin struck in his eighteenth year. And the assertion is also erroneous, that no abbreviations intersecting the letters occur on coins preceding those of Henry IV. for such abbreviations are found even on coins of the Saxon kings. It would be easy to give other proofs, but we deem these sufficient, and shall only add, that we have historical evidences of the existence of Augustinian Abbeys dedicated to the Virgin both at Durmagh, or Durrow, and Trim, but none of any dedicated to other saints of that name; to which may be added, that the figures of the abbot on both seals are represented in the costume of the Augustinian order.

P.

### MULHERN, THE IRISH CONJURER.

A man of the name of Roger Mulhern, who lived for many years near Carlingford, had the reputation, while he lived, of being a great conjurer; and his memory is still regarded with great reverence by the Irish peasantry of that neighbourhood. This impostor pretended, that by the aid of a familiar spirit, he could tell the state of the dead. Several people, anxious to know how their relatives fared in the other world, flocked to the house of this sage, who gave them a night's lodging free of expense, and by artful inquiries drew from his visitors a knowledge of such circumstances in the life of the departed friend, as enabled him to decide whether he was happy or miserable. His fame increased, and he was taken up as an imposter, and bound not to continue his practices.

This for some time deterred people from going publicly to his house, yet they visited him with the greatest secrecy, under the veil of night; and he, as a reward for their faithfulness, presented each person with a shilling, besides giving them the most satisfactory information respecting the deceased.

Perhaps some of your correspondents could furnish you with more information respecting this man.

D. E.

### THE ROCK OF CASHEL.

Royal and saintly Cashel! I would gaze  
Upon the wreck of thy departed powers,  
Not in the dewy light of matin hours,  
Nor the meridian pomp of summer's blaze,  
But at the close of dim autumnal days;  
When the sun's parting glance through slanting  
showers,  
Sheds o'er thy rock-throned pediments and towers,  
Such awful gleams as brighten on decay's  
Prophetic cheek.—At such a time, methinks,  
There breathes from thy lone courts and voiceless  
aisles  
A melancholy moral: such as sinks  
On the worn traveller's heart, amid the piles  
Of vast Persepolis on her mountain stand,  
Or Thebes half buried in the desert's sand.

A. de V.

ANCIENT MODE OF PUNISHING DISHONEST BAKERS.—Perhaps the ancient mode of punishing bakers for fraud, might be resorted to with effect in those dishonest times—it was at least more humane than that of the ancient Egyptians, namely, baking them in their own ovens!

"MCCCX. The bakers of Dublin were punished after a new way for false weights: for, on St. Sampson the Bishop's day, they were drawn upon hurdles, at the horses' tails, along the streets of the city."—*Pembridge's Annals of Ireland*.

This happened in a year of great scarcity, when a crone of wheat sold for 20s., and upwards.